Tie between ISRO and private players

1074. SHRI C.RTHIRUNAVUKKARASU:Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned ISRO wants to pass on its know-how to private players" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 15th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether the ISRO has assessed its impact on Defence and missile projects under development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since its inception, ISRO has been striving to involve the Indian Industries in its space programme. With the substantial increase in the scope of the space programme, both in terms of the number of launch vehicles and satellites being developed and launched by ISRO, the efforts to involve the industry is receiving further fillip. The ISRO efforts are now aimed at making the industries graduate from supplying parts and components to supplying major systems required for ISRO's satellites and launch vehicles.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Satellite for Literacy

1075. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has started developing an exclusive satellite for use in the domains of literacy, education, training and other related issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultations were made with the Human Resource Development Ministry in regard thereto; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPA, TMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ISRO has planned to develop an exclusive satellite called EDUSAT for promotion of education in the country. The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 85.00 Crores.